

Advent Prayer and Reflection
(Tuesday class canceled) Wednesday Week 4
Christmas at the Home of John

Opening Prayer

Warm Up Question

What do we remember from our visits to each of the three houses we've visited?

Mark's House?

Matthew's House?

Luke's house?

John's House; drawing by Kevin Burns



What do you notice about John's house? What does it remind you of?

Read: John 1:1-5; 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you notice in this passage of scripture? What are the key words that stand out?
 - a. We read this passage of scripture in our Blue Christmas service. What words stand out the most when we hear it that night?
 - b. We will read this passage of scripture on Christmas Eve. What do you think will stand out the most when we hear it that night?
2. Where does John say the good news of Jesus Christ really starts?
3. In John 1:14, the Greek literally says that God **tabernacled among us**. Other translators have played with the language and said that God has **pitched a tent among us** or God has **moved into the neighborhood**. What do you think John wants the reader to understand?
4. John is talking about the incarnation—this idea that God has taken on human flesh to live among us. What about the incarnation can be a source of hope to us?

Read: John 1:14-18

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you notice in this passage? What are the key words?
2. How does John's description of Christmas different than the other gospels? Why is it important to read John alongside Matthew and Luke (and even Mark)?

The World Still Knows by Ann Weems

The night is still dark
and a procession of Herds still terrorize the earth,
killing the children to stay in power.

The world still knows its Herods,
but it also still knows men and women
who pack their dreams safely in their hearts
and set off toward Bethlehem,
faithful against all odds,
undeterred by fatigue or rejection,
to kneel to a child.

And the world still knows those persons
wise enough
to follow a star,
those who do not consider themselves too intelligent
too powerful
too wealthy
to kneel to a child.

And the world still knows those hearts so humble
that they're ready
to hear the word of a song
and to leave what they have, to go
to kneel to a child.

The night is still dark,
but by the light of the star,
even today
we can still see
To kneel to a child.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Closing Prayer